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22 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator Stuart Symington on Soviet ICBM Program

TIME : 10 - 11 a. m., 18 September 1959

PLACE : Senator Symington's office

PRESENT: Senator Symington
Dr. Scoville
Mr. Stoertz

Senator Symington opened by asking to be brought up to date, and by reading a brief statement he had prepared for release to the effect that the US had neither a present nor a prospective capability to accomplish a feat comparable to that of Lunik II. He amplified by referring to the much greater propulsion available to the Russians, and said he had criticized Dr. York for downgrading the military implications of the Lunik.

We described the recent firing program (using a T. S. chart prepared in OSI) for both ICBMs and space vehicles, emphasizing their close relationship and the increase we had made in estimated ICBM payload weight based on that relationship. We covered other

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ICBM characteristics, the two "long" shots (which the Senator had been told about in somewhat garbled form), and our present thinking about IOC date. We indicated a divergence of views in the intelligence community on the probable date.

On questioning by Senator Symington, we gave a general measure of possible Soviet future production and operational capabilities with ICBMs, using Hyland Panel conclusions without attribution, but said we were re-examining this problem on the basis of Soviet requirements and intentions. Asked when we expected this to be complete, we replied later this year.

Twice during the meeting Senator Symington raised the matter of Vice President Nixon's statement about three Soviet failures just prior to the successful launching of Lunik II. He said at first that he was concerned about remarks that tended to deprecate Soviet capabilities, and gave us to understand that he wanted to make some further statement about this for the record. We told him of Khrushchev's comment to the Foreign Relations Committee about technical difficulties which required the substitution of a new rocket.

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He left open the question of what he himself might do by way of a public statement.

Throughout our conversation, Senator Symington was receptive and friendly to us and to the Agency. At least one of his comments, however, left the impression that he is still smarting from his exchanges with the DCI relating to his letter to the President of a year ago.

As we were about to leave, the Senator remarked to the effect that neither he nor Senator Russell had been brought up to date on the Soviet ICBM program recently, and requested that we inform him (by visit or phone depending on security considerations) of any additional firings. We said we would, but we require instructions as to how this request can most appropriately be met.

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Herbert Scoville, Jr.

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Howard Stoertz, Jr.

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Director
For your information



22 Sept.
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
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FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
		22 Sep.
TO: Mr. John Warner		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
221	East	
REMARKS:		
<p>for your information</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SW</p>		
FROM: Howard Staerz Jr.		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
252	Admin.	
<p>FORM NO. 241 1 FEB 55</p> <p>REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(47)</p>		

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